

Agenda item 4

For information - Children and Young People's' Projects – November 2024

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In March 2024, Frome Town Council called for expressions of interest from local organisations to deliver projects in Frome and the surrounding area. The funding came through Somerset Council's 'Connect Somerset' initiative to enhance the offer for Children and Young people in the town.

The target areas, identified using information gleaned from stakeholders and focus groups, included:

- Under 5's - Parent/carer support
- Young People's support
- Play Provision
- Targeted support for Disabled Children and Young People

The organisations were asked to focus their projects on advocacy, support for positive mental wellbeing, increased connectedness for Children, Young People and their families, and representation and inclusion of Disabled Children and Young People.

The ambition was that play provision would be localised and linked to Frome Town Council's vision for a Playful Town and recommendations from the Play Strategy 2021- 2025 www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Play-Strategy-for-Frome-2021-2025.pdf

The Project brief was to build relationships which support Children, Young People, and their Parents/Carers to be resilient, connected, and active participants in their community.

We requested projects that would build social opportunities and meaningful life skills for all Children and Young People that strengthen their identity and confidence, measure outcomes and develop the project to include Children, Young People's and Parent/Carer voices and influence and create sustainable project models that can be embedded in communities.

However, what we really encouraged were collaborations between organisations, and we actively kept the scope of work loose to encourage organisations to be creative and adaptable in their use of the budget and project delivery - we believed that true partnership work meant trusting their expertise as frontline practitioners, and in commissioning the work in this way we would be able to offer richer experiences to the Children and Young People in the town.

We conducted 14 informal meetings with interested organisations between Monday 22nd - Wednesday 24th April to discuss specifications and costings of the project, with an application deadline of Tuesday 7th May, and interviews took place on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th May.

The awarded organisations included:

Super Roots - Started Summer 2024

Go-Karts project – offering free workshops in parks across Frome for Children and Young People (CYP) aged 8+ and their families to create and build go-karts, and then race them at an end of summer event. These workshops encouraged use of tools and challenged CYP's with a riskier playful offer. This links directly with the Play Strategy Ambitions: To increase play opportunities and make them more visible and to have dedicated play organisations to support play.

Open Story Tellers - Started summer 2024

Camerados+ - The project will create a trained squad of learning-disabled young volunteers (14+) to become Mental Health self-advocates who will then support good mental health awareness for CYP's across SEND services in Frome via Camerado community lounges. They will also transform exciting Mental Health First Aid training into an accessible and engaging version made by and for young people with a learning disability.

Purple Elephant and Young Somerset - Started Oct 2024

Purple Elephant Youth Club – A partnership project between Purple Elephant and Young Somerset to offer a 'younger' youth club session. There has been a recognised gap locally for the 'younger' 8-13 yrs age group with regard to a youth club/open access session. The club will run weekly through term time at the Key Centre and will offer a safe welcoming environment, with activities and support offered by trained youth workers.

The Pod - Starting in Jan 2025

Seed Pod – Stay and play after school session for CYP's with additional needs. These sessions will offer a supportive space, creative opportunities, and games along with support from trained team members. These sessions will be aimed at those aged 8+, but siblings and parents will be welcome. The sessions will run one day a week at an accessible location.

Baby Connections - Started Aug 2024

Baby Link – A project designed to support families particularly those under 25 years who may struggle to access the support and/or social spaces for families with under 5's in Frome. This project offers 1-2-1 meetings with a trained worker as well as the opportunity to go with a family to local groups, to establish supportive relationships and reduce barriers to accessing existing services.